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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/785,402
Filing Date	February 20, 2001
First Named Inventor	Noboru Takachio
Art Unit	2633
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	034620-000084

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

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TC 2600

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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Limited Recognition Under 37 CFR §10.9(b)
1449 citing 3 pieces of art |
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Remarks

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name
Masako Ando, Limited Recognition Under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

Signature

Date

2/19/04

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Noboru Takachio et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/785,402
FILING DATE: February 20, 2001
TITLE: Node Apparatus, Optical Wavelength Division Multiplexing
Network, And System Switching Method
EXAMINER: Unassigned
ART UNIT: 2633

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Each item of information listed in the attached FORM PTO-1449, for which a copy of each is attached, may be material to the examination of the above-identified application and is, therefore, submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure defined in 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The Examiner is requested to make these items of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one or more of these items constitutes prior art.

I

This statement is filed pursuant to:

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

This information disclosure statement is filed either (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d); (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application; (3) before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, or (4) before the mailing of a first office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, whichever event occurs last.

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires no fee and no certification.

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

This information disclosure statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b), but before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; (2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires either the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c) (\$180); or a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e).

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

This information disclosure statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c).

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) to consider an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) (\$180), and a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

If this statement crosses in the mail with an office action, or is otherwise not in the indicated category of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, it is respectfully requested that this statement be treated in the next appropriate category and made of record. To the extent required, please treat this paper as a conditional petition for acceptance of the information disclosure statement.

II

☒ No fee is due.

☐ The fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) is enclosed (\$180).

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment to our deposit account number 50-1698.

III

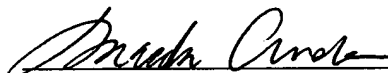
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), I certify:

- () No certification is necessary.
- (X) (1) Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information statement; or
- () (2) No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.704 (d), I further certify that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

Dated: February 19, 2004



Masako Ando

Limited Recognition Under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

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